

XXII. *On the Australian species of Tetracha.* By EDWIN BROWN.

[Read 5th July, 1869.]

SPECIMENS of the Australian species of the genus *Tetracha* have hitherto been very rare in European collections. Baron Chaudoir in his "Catalogue de la Collection de Cicindélètes," published in 1865, only mentions one species which he possessed from Australia. A recent importation, however, of specimens, has afforded me the opportunity of examining several species, which were previously unknown in this country. Gemminger and Harold, in Vol. i of their "Catalogus Coleopterorum," issued in 1868, notice the following species of *Tetracha* as from Australia.

<i>Australasiae</i> , Hope . . .	Port Essington.
<i>australis</i> , Chaud. . . .	Nov. Holl.
<i>basalis</i> , McLeay	Port Denison.
<i>Bostockii</i> , Castel. . . .	Nov. Holl.
<i>crucigera</i> , McLeay	Port Denison.
<i>Hopei</i> , Castel.	Nov. Holl.
<i>humeralis</i> , McLeay	Port Denison.
<i>scapularis</i> , McLeay	Port Denison.
<i>Waterhousei</i> , Castel. . . .	Nov. Holl.

McLeay remarks that of these species, *T. humeralis*, *scapularis*, *crucigera*, and *Australasiae*, resemble each other in being more or less margined with yellow. To this group may also be added, as they are margined in like manner, *T. Hopei* and *Bostockii*, and probably also *T. basalis*, but of the last-mentioned species I have not yet seen the description.

The species mentioned in the paragraph, as above, will, therefore, stand as follows:—

Section I. *Elytra margined with yellow.*

<i>Tetracha humeralis</i> ,	McLeay.
<i>T. Hopei</i> ,	Castel.
<i>T. scapularis</i> ,	McLeay.
<i>T. Bostockii</i> ,	Castel.
<i>T. crucigera</i> ,	McLeay.

The identity of *Australasiæ*, of Hope, has still to be ascertained, as, apparently, specimens do not exist under that name in Australia. Count de Castelnau suggests that *Australasiæ*, of Hope, is identical with *crucigera*, of McLeay; but he remarks that the insect figured by White under the name *Australasiæ*, in the Voyage of the 'Beagle,' is certainly the *humeralis* of McLeay. Unfortunately, Hope's description of *Australasiæ* is so imperfect, that the question cannot be decided from that alone. The specimens under the name of *Australasiæ* in the British Museum, are, I believe, from recollection, identical with *humeralis*. An examination of the original Hopeian specimen, now at Oxford, is requisite to set the matter at rest. The name, however, had better be dropped altogether.

Of the Australian species of *Tetracha*, mentioned by Gemminger and Harold, there remain the *australis*, of Chaudoir, and *Waterhousei*, of Castelnau, neither of which is margined with yellow; but these are undoubtedly two names for one and the same species; and as Baron Chaudoir's name has priority of date, it must be used in preference to the other. The second section will stand thus:—

Section II. *Elytra tipped, but not margined, with yellow.*

Tetracha australis, Chaud.= *Waterhousei*, Castel.

The recorded species are consequently reduced to seven. I have now, however, to mention an eighth, and new species, said to be from Champion Bay, in Western Australia, of which I possess two male specimens.

The characters are as follow:—

Section III. *Elytra wholly green.*

Tetracha pulchra, n. sp.

♂. Length 7-8 lines; breadth of elytra 3 lines.

In shape, more cylindrical than any of the other Australian species with which I am acquainted.

Elytra brilliant golden-green, the sutures metallic blue; coarsely punctured at the base, the punctures gradually

reduced in size until near the apex, where they become obsolete; the usual subapical line of pits well defined. Thorax wholly golden-green, with blue and purple reflections on the disc and sides. Head the same in colour. The abdomen has the basal segments green, the apical segment yellow at the tip, pitchy at the base, the second, third, and fourth from the apex, pitchy, the last mentioned green at the sides. Legs: thighs chesnut brown; tibiae and tarsi obscure yellow, with the tips of all the joints stained with brown. Antennæ yellow. Jaws long and powerful, yellow; teeth black.

I may remark that all the Australian species of *Tetracha* have a peculiar *facies*, which at once distinguishes them from the species from America. They are broader, and more robust insects; and they all possess a well defined longitudinal subsutural line of pits, situate at about one-fourth of the width of the elytron from the suture, curving outwardly as it approaches the apex. This line of pits does not exist at all in those American species which I possess, or if there be any trace of it, it is only in very close proximity to the suture. The Old World species *T. quadrisignata* and *euphratica*, both possess the line of pits above mentioned, and they further agree in shape with their Australian relations. Sooner or later the Old World species must be arranged in a genus by themselves, throwing *T. Boccandei* into the genus *Megacephala*, to which it more properly belongs. The generic limits will then accord with geographical habitats, as ought always to be the case where nature will permit.
